



BILLING CODE 6717-01-P
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP18-12-000]

Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, LLC **Herscher Northwest Storage Field Abandonment Project**

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Herscher Northwest Storage Field Abandonment Project, proposed by Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America LLC (Natural) in the above-referenced docket. Natural requests authorization to abandon the Herscher Northwest Storage Field facilities with its certificated maximum inventory of 18.5 billion cubic feet (Bcf) located in Kankakee County, Illinois.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the abandonment of the Herscher Northwest Storage Field Abandonment Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Natural proposes to abandon:

- in place 19 injection/withdrawal wells by permanently plugging and capping;
- in place 16.15 miles of 4- to 16-inch-diameter associated pipeline laterals in the storage field by capping;
- in place 13 non-jurisdictional observation wells by plugging;
- in place one non-jurisdictional salt water disposal well by plugging;
- in place approximately 15.3 Bcf of non-recoverable cushion gas;
- by removal the 330-horsepower Compressor Station 202 including its building, compressor unit, concrete piers, and concrete foundation; and
- by removal all aboveground and belowground storage field auxiliary surface facilities, including, but not limited to: well head piping, slug catchers, water gathering system, and methanol distribution systems associated with the abandoned wells; seven tap valves; a pigging facility; and two corrosion monitors along with their associated rectifiers and ground beds.

Natural also proposes to convert the P. Cook No. 1 injection/withdrawal well to an observational well for its nearby Herscher Mount Simon Storage Field; and retain the P. Cook No. G-1 well as an observation well for its nearby Herscher Galesville Storage Field.

The FERC staff mailed copies of the EA to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; and newspapers and libraries in the project area. In addition, the EA is available for public viewing on the FERC's website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Public Reference Room
888 First Street NE, Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8371

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that the Commission has the opportunity to consider your comments prior to making its decision on this project, it is important that we receive your comments in Washington, DC on or before **May 14, 2018**.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to file your comments to the Commission. In all instances, please reference the project docket number (CP18-12-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

- (1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;
- (2) You can also file your comments electronically using the eFiling feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on eRegister. You must select

the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select Comment on a Filing; or

- (3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).¹ Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. The Commission grants affected landowners and others with environmental concerns intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which no other party can adequately represent. **Simply filing environmental comments will not give you intervenor status, but you do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.**

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at **(866) 208-FERC**, or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on General Search, and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., CP18-12). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Dated: April 12, 2018.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

¹ See the previous discussion on the methods for filing comments.

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